AN EXACT

RELATION

Of the Proceedings of the Cavaleers

AT

CICESTER;

Containing a true Declaration, of their bloody Cruelties, the number of men that were slain on both sides, and what Prisoners were taken and carried to *Oxford*.

Also the Copie of the Oath or Protestation which was tendred unto them at *Oxford*; With many other remarkable Passages concerning the said businesse.

As also the Votes of the Parliament, and what is agreed upon in the House of Commons. Concerning the late Propositions sent by His Majestie to both Houses, for a Treaty of *Peace*.

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Febr. 14. LONDON,

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An Exact Relation of the Proceedings of the CAVALEERS at *CICESTER.*

PRince *Ruperts* Scouts, upon the tenth of this instant February, approached near the Town of Cicester in the County of Glocester, and newes was brought to the Town, that Prince *Rupert* himself, Prince *Mawrice*, the Earl of Carnarvon, the Earl of Northampton, the Lord Digby, and divers other great Commanders, with about seven thousand horse and foot, were marching towards Cicester with an intent to make an attempt against it, which Town at that time, was not in so good a posture of defence as formerly it had been, for that part of their forces were about Malmesbury and other places, which was occasioned by a late assault which was made against Shudly-Castle by the Glouceſterſhire forces, where they took the Lord *Shandoys* and three hundred men prisoners, with their Arms and Ammunition, so that there was in Cicester at this time, but eleven hundred men, and five small Peeces of Ordnance. This day there was but little done, only three or foure of Prince *Ruperts* Scouts were taken Prisoners and caried into the Town, but the next day Prince *Rupert* having brought all his forces together before the Town, began to make an assault against it, whereupon the Townsmen perceiving the great strength that was against them, presently

sent to Glouceſter, deſiring ſome ayd and aſſiſtance from thence, and in the mean time, they reſolved to oppoſe the Enemies forces, which was valiantly performed by them, inſomuch that the Enemy could make no entrance all that day, although they played very fiercely againſt the Town with their Ordnance, and at laſt, whilſt the Ordnance were playing againſt one end of the Town, Prince RVPERT with a party of Horſe, advanced to the other end, and made an aſſault againſt it, ſhooting Granadoes to ſet on fire Barnes and thatched houſes, which were at that end, and fired ſome of them, amongſt which was a Stack of Hay, the ſmoke of which fire, by reaſon of the Winde carrying it into the Town, did ſo much annoy the inhabitants of the Town, that they could hardly ſee one another, and knew not which way to turn them, and and thereupon were ſuddainly ſurpriſed by the Cavaleers, who at their firſt entrance laid about them in that inhumain manner, it would grieve the hardeſt heart to think of, for they ſpared neither woman nor child that they met withall, and moſt cruelly murthered a godly Divine and his whole Family, and after quarter was granted, thoſe men which eſcaped with their lives, were miſerably tortured, and uſed with worſe cruelty then death, for they were ſtript naked and dragged up and down the ſtreet, terrifying them with moſt heavie oathes, and curſes, holding their naked ſwords and Piſtols to their breaſts, and at laſt drave them into the Church, where they were kept in that naked and miſerable condition, four and twenty houres together, without eyther bread or water, there being (as it is reported) about a thouſand of them, which cruelties are hardly to be paraleld by any ſtories in our Engliſh Chronicles.

Before

Before I passe any further, I should relate the number of such persons as were slain on both sides, but in this particuler I shall crave favour to be excused, if I do not so exactly relate the very certainty thereof, it being a thing of more then ordinary difficulty, to give a true definition thereof, but herein I must referre my self to the generall brute of the people, which in all probability doth not much vary from the truth, who say that before the Cavaleers entred the Town, the inhabitants lost not above two hundred men, but the enemy lost about fifteen hundred.

The prisoners which were taken by the Cavaleers, were pinioned and coupled together, and driven like Cattle to Oxford, without shoes or stockins, or hats to keep their bare heads from the weather, many of them (as it is reported) being glad to make hard shift for a peece of Mat or Straw to tye about them, to cover their nakednesse, and and at their comming near unto *Oxford*, newes being brought to the town of their neer approach, a great number of people came out to meet them, the prisoners being tyed together with Cords and Match, though most of them were of very good worth and quality, and two of them Ministers, which were in the like manner drawn through the dirt and mire, and so were all caried into the Town and imprisoned in two severall Churches, and kept there all night, not being allowed either fire, bread, or water: whereupon a poor woman perceiving the miserable condition of these poor distressed prisoners, and hearing their lamentable complaint and cry for water, went to fetch them some, but being seen she was beaten by a Cavaleer; yet the poor woman being inwardly moved with these mens miseries, said she would fetch them water, though she were hanged for it. Some of them that were taken at Cicester,

and thus carried to Oxford, by reaſon of their cruell uſage, and the wounds they had received, not having any meanes to recover them, nor any Chirurgeon to come at them, are ſince dead.

After they had been thus impriſoned all night in the Churches, the next day they had an Oath tendred unto them, which was as followeth, *viz.*

The Oath adminiſtred unto all thoſe who were taken Priſoners by the Cavaleers at Chicheſter.

I *A. B.* reſting fully aſſured of His Majeſties Princely truth and goodneſſe, do freely and from my heart, promiſe, vow, and proteſt, in the preſence of Almighty God, that I will, to the utmoſt of my power, and with the hazard of my life, maintain and defend the true Proteſtant Religion, eſtabliſhed in the Church of England, His Majeſties ſacred Perſon, his Highneſſe, and lawfull ſucceſſors, His Majeſties juſt power and priviledge, and the juſt power and priviledge of Parliament, againſt the Forces under the Conduct of the Earl of *Eſſex*, and againſt all other Forces whatſoever, contrary to His Majeſties command. I do beleeve that the raiſing and imploying of forces by His Majeſtie

for

for the purposes and causes before mentioned, to be most just and necessary, and I will do my utmost endeavour to procure and re-establish the peace and the quiet of the Kingdome, and that herein all His Majesties Subiects may fully enjoy their liberty and property according to the law of the land; and I will neither divulge or communicate any thing to the said Earle of Essex his Officers, or to any other to hinder or prejudice the designes of His Maiestie in the conduct and imployment of His army: and I do beleeve that the Subiects of England are not obliged by any act of State, Vote, Ordinance, or Declaration, made or to be made, either by the Kings Maiesty solely, or by the Lords and Commons singly, or joyntly, without his Maiesties expresse consent (saving such as have or shall be in execution, of or according to some known Law-custome of the Realm, or Statute enacted by the King, or Lords and Commons in Parliament:) and I do further protest and vow in the presence of Almighty God, that I will not take or bear armes, but by expresse warrant of His Maiestie, or by authority justly derived from His Majesties immediate warrant.

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A great part of the buſineſſe in Parliament the laſt week, was concerning the propoſitions lately ſent from his Majeſty to the Parliament concerning a treaty, & perticulerly about a Ceſſation of Arms; and the Houſe of Commons conceving it unſafe and a matter of dangerous conſequence to the Kingdom, that there ſhould be a ceſſation of arms only during the treaty, after long debate of the buſineſſe (their being about 200 perſons in the Houſe) it being put to the Queſtion it was carried by the Major voices, that there ſhould be an utter disbanding of all forces, both by the King and Parl. which if his Maj. will gratiouſly be pleaſed to agree unto, the Parl. will make choice of fit and able perſons for the managing of the treaty with thoſe which ſhall be choſen by his Majeſty, and in the mean time, untill things are further agreed upon, they wilbe ready to propound ſuch a way to give his Majeſty ſatisfaction concrening the propoſitions made by his Maieſty, touching his Forts, Caſtles, and Navy, as ſhalbe reſonable, and with ſafety to the Kingdom.

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